

The Hon'ble Babu Adit Prashad Singh asked :—

Release of *Bakrid* prisoners on the occasion of Peace Celebration.

“(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article headed “For Mercy’s Sake”, appearing in the *Express*, dated the 8th November last, appealing to the Government to show mercy to the *Bakrid* rioters and to release them from jail?”

“(b) (1) Is it a fact that the *Express*, the *Behar Herald*, the *Behar Advocate* and the *Pataliputra* have all prayed the Government to show mercy to the Hindu *Bakrid* rioters on the occasion of the coming Peace Celebration?”

“(2) If so, will the Government give the matter its consideration?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Rainy replied:—

“(a) Yes.

“(b) Yes.

“(c) Government have already considered the matter and have decided—

(1) that all prisoners whose sentences do not exceed six years shall have three years remitted;

(2) that all those whose sentences exceed six years shall have half their sentence remitted;

(3) that all those who are now over 50 years of age and whose health is bad shall be released.

“These concessions apply to the prisoners convicted as a result of the riots which took place in the Patna Division in connexion with the *Bakrid* in 1917. They are subject to certain conditions as to abstinence from participation in future disturbances; the freedom from such disturbances of the villages in which the prisoners reside and in which their offences were committed and the good conduct of the prisoners while in jail. It should be added as announced in a press communiqué, dated the 30th December 1918, that all persons sentenced to terms of imprisonment of three years or less and all persons under twenty years of age not regarded as specially criminal were released in January last.”

The Hon'ble Babu Adit Prashad Singh asked :—

Release of or grant of remission to prisoners sentenced for state offences.

“(a) Has the Bihar Government released or granted remission to prisoners sentenced under Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code for offences against the State or for kindred offences under other laws, as directed in the Government of India's communiqué of 10th July 1919?”

“(b) If so, will the Government publish the names and when?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Sifton replied:—

“The Government of Bihar and Orissa are in communication with the Punjab Government on the subject of the remission of sentences of certain Punjabi prisoners detained at Hazaribagh Jail. Apart from these there were only two prisoners of the class referred to in jail in Bihar and Orissa. Government after considering their cases decided not to grant release or remission in either case.”

The Hon'ble Babu Adit Prashad Singh asked :—

Revision of pay of the subordinate and menial servants of Government.

“(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the articles published in the *Express* of the 4th September and 12th November regarding the rate of pay of the subordinate and menial servants of the Government, and the appointment of a committee to examine the adequacy or otherwise of the present rates of pay of such officers, as has been done by the Madras Government?”

“(b) Does the Bihar Government propose to take any similar action?”